

REMARKS

This is a reply to the Office Action dated September 15, 2009, in the above-referenced patent application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Status of Claims

Applicant has herein canceled Claims 2, 7, 12, 14, 19-24 and 26. Previously withdrawn Claims 7-27 have either been canceled or amended to depend ultimately on amended Claim 1. Applicant has herein added Claims 28-43. Accordingly, Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, 15-18, 25, and 27-43 are pending.

Claim Rejections – Section 112 – Claims 4-6

Claims 4-6 were rejected under Section 112 for depending upon themselves. Applicant has herein corrected said claims to depend on Claim 1 which has been amended herein as discussed below.

Claim Rejections – Section 103(a) – Claims 1-3

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over An (6,067,033) in view of Ayres (3,225,883), while Claim 2 was rejected over said combination and further in view of Pham (D387,340). Claim 3 was rejected over the combination applied to Claim 2 and further in view of Shelton (3,970,185).

At the outset, Applicant respectfully submits that Ayres, whose Figure 2 was cited for showing a vertically elongated SHIFT key, states that Figure 2 “shows a diagrammatic plan view of an alternative keyboard where a shift control provides additional characters. . .” (col. 8:3-7). While Figure 2 was meant to illustrate that certain keys were arranged in columns, nothing in the disclosure suggests that the diagrammatic depiction of the shift keys represents a vertically elongated key. Certainly, the written

specification does not mention this.

Nonetheless, Applicant has amended Claim 1 by incorporating the limitations originally recited in Claim 2 regarding a centrally disposed and vertically elongated BACK SPACE key disposed above the ENTER key. Furthermore, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite that the plurality of substantially straight horizontal rows define six contiguous horizontal rows of keys. Most conventional keyboards only define no more than 5 contiguous horizontal rows, with a top row of function keys separated above the rest of the contiguous keys.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of vertically elongated SHIFT keys, a central vertically elongated ENTER key, a central vertically elongated SHIFT KEY above the ENTER key, and six contiguous horizontal rows is unique over the cited prior art.

Applicant has also herein amended Claims 8-11, 13, 15-18, 25, and 27 to depend ultimately on amended Claim 1. Applicant has also added new dependent Claim 28 which recites that the BACK SPACE key and the ENTER key have substantially similar widths and form a substantially straight column.

New Claims 29-43

Applicant has herein added independent Claim 29 which recites left and right vertically elongated SHIFT keys, a central vertically elongated ENTER key, a central vertically elongated BACK SPACE key disposed above the ENTER key, wherein the ENTER key and the BACK SPACE key have substantially similar widths and form a substantially straight column. Applicant respectfully submits that said claimed combination is unique and allowable over the cited prior art.

Furthermore, Applicant has added dependent Claims 30-43 which recite further features.

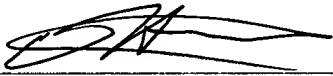
Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1 and 29 are allowable over the cited prior art references. Applicant further submits that the dependent claims are allowable for the additional features recited therein.

Applicant encourages the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney if it appears that a telephone conference would facilitate allowance of the application. Please direct all correspondence to **Myers Andras Sherman LLP**, 19900 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 1150, Irvine, California 92612.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

12/15/09 by



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